



The City of Treasure Island, Florida
www.mytreasureisland.org

NEWS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 20, 2007

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A Sunset Beach sea oats planting July 14th

Treasure Island is seeking volunteers from the community to help plant sea oats on Sunset Beach on Saturday, July 14, 2007. The Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management provides the plants; the Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee brings the refreshments and training on properly planting sea oats. Volunteers should meet at the Sunset Chateau at 8470 West Gulf Boulevard at 8:30am. Bring a shovel or a spade. You can park at the Sunset Chateau in the non-reserved spaces at the edge of the parking lot.

Beach Stewardship Committee Chairman Dennis Velasco said the project includes planting new sea oats that were lost to Tropical Storm Barry on Sunshine Beach.

Sea oats are important because they help to stabilize the sand on the dunes and can help the dunes to accumulate sand, rather than eroding. However, people walk over and across sand dunes, says Velasco, dislodging the plants and leaving the dunes unprotected from wind, rain and coastal erosion. "Planting sea oats in areas prone to coastal erosion can help restore and protect the dunes that in turn help protect the homes and businesses behind the dune area," he added.

Volunteers may contribute any amount of time they have available. So far, community response and interest in prior sea oat planting projects has been exceptional.

Assisting the city with rebuilding the dunes through sea oats planting is an excellent community service opportunity for businesses, churches, civic groups and other organizations. Contact Dennis Velasco at 727-360-1901 or the City of Treasure Island Public Information Office at 727-547-4575 to volunteer or for more information.

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